

Mr. James Melonas Forest Supervisor  
Santa Fe National Forest  
11 Forest Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

RE" Scoping comments for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Dear Mr. Melonas,

The Forest Service should complete an Environmental Impact Statement before clearing any more of our forests. After meeting with forest officials, attending Fireshed Coalition meetings and visiting several cleared areas I can only conclude that this plan has not been thought out thoroughly.

Many of our questions are unanswered. Simple questions such as how will you keep ATVs from driving into cleared areas? How will you address erosion, which is more destructive than fire? Who will be monitoring the contractors who are performing the work? Are there plans to offset the release of carbon during the cutting and burning of the Santa Fe forests? Have you considered other scientific studies, which show that the most effective mitigation is to treat directly around homes and structures to protect properties and human life?

When I walk in these areas that are being cleared it is like walking through a culled group of people chosen for their age shape and size, it is becoming a monoculture without the diversity that has taken so long to grow. Where are the future generations? I was told by one ecologist, that there is no way to quantify mycorrhiza so it isn't considered in the prescribed burning process.

When I walk along the edge of the watershed, which was cleared 16 years ago and burned twice since, I see a meadow trying to establish, with little diversity of plants. I see trees that were intended to be preserved, are falling over and dying because there is no windbreak. I am looking for the diversity that the forest service claims will come as a result of the thinning and burning, I asked about studies that have been done since the beginning of the watershed thinning and there are none, I am referred to studies out of Colorado. The Ecologists at the Fireshed Coalition dismissed studies from California because fire has a very "local" behavior. Why would I look to Colorado for examples of diversity after a fire in New Mexico? With more access and roads there will be more multinational corporations exploring for minerals as the Australian company is doing in Terrero. This plan is not considering the long term consequences of this action. It is not making our forests more resilient it is causing more roads, erosion and access to humans in areas that should remain wild. We need a more informed approach. We need an Environmental Impact Statement.  
Thank you for your time,

Dorothy Dean